

**From:** Charles S. C. Clement  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
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Shame on you for caving in!

Microsoft has done and continues to do serious damage to the competitive marketplace in which they operate. Past legal actions have done little to change their behavior and nothing to change their attitude. Significant remedies are needed to keep them in check. If you need reassurance, witness the glee and excitement expressed by Gates, Ballmer, et al after the settlement was announced - they know they're getting off easy.

Consider these facts:

- you and eighteen states felt strongly enough to press the case in the first place
- numerous additional, credible charges of anticompetitive behavior have surfaced outside the scope of the formal litigation
- it is widely accepted that Microsoft has ignored and/or flouted earlier court orders
- the EU is pursuing several investigations of Microsoft's anticompetitive behavior

Where there's smoke, there's fire!

The rush to settlement seems to have been prompted by concerns about the economy in the aftermath of September 11. The argument suggests that unshackling Microsoft can help boost the economy. This is debatable, but even accepting it as true does not make it a good idea - the short term boost to the economy has to be weighed against the long term harm caused by Microsoft's ruthlessness and the potentially huge economic opportunities created by unshackling innovation, the true casualty of the Microsoft's behavior.

It makes me sick every time I hear Bill Gates talk about innovation. Sure they've added value, but Microsoft bought or copied many of their best products. And we may never know how many great ideas/products/companies they squashed along the way. So, not only are they not innovative but they actively hinder innovation!

In the interest of full disclosure, you should know that I am a Microsoft stockholder.

If the barn door is not yet completely closed, I urge you to revert back to your earlier stand against Microsoft.

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